

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 7039

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, ET
SUBJ: FORMATION OF WORKERS' PARTY RUMORED IMMINENT AGAIN

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA A-78; (B) ADDIS ABABA 5091; (C) ADDIS
ABABA A-95

SUMMARY: RELIABLE SOURCE CLAIMED ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILI-
TARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) MAY ESTABLISH WORKERS'
PARTY BEFORE ETHIOPIAN CHRISTMAS JAN 7. PARTY WOULD BE
MENGISTU-LED AND PROBABLY BE RADICALLY ORIENTED. ITS FORMA-
TION COULD RESULT IN PURGE OF SOME MODERATE MEMBERS OF PMAC
AND PMAC-SANCTIONED MARXIST-LENINIST GROUP MEMBERS. WHOLLY
RADICAL ORIENTATION TO EXCLUSION OF NON-IDEOLOGICAL PRAG-
MATISTS COULD FURTHER EXACERBATE US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS,
ESPECIALLY IF PARTY IDEOLOGUES FOLLOW SOVIET LINE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING DEC 6-9 VISIT OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR)
POLITBUREAUMEMBER AND CENTRAL PARTY COMMITTEE (SED) SECRE-
TARY, WERNER LAMBERZ, PRESSURE HAS BEGUN TO BUILD ONCE AGAIN
FOR FORMATION OF WORKERS' PARTY. RELIABLE SOURCE CLAIMED
THERE GROWING PROBABILITY PARTY WILL BE ESTABLISHED PRIOR
TO JAN 7, ETHIOPIAN CHRISTMAS. SOURCE STATED PARTY WOULD BE
STATEWIDE WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU AS TOP PARTY OFFICIAL
(EXACT TITLE UNDECIDED YET) AND HIS CURRENT "PARTY" SEDED
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(REVOLUTIONARY FLAME) AS VANGUARD. OTHER FOUR PMAC-SANCTIONED
MARXIST-LENINIST GROUPS WOULD BE DISSOLVED, BUT OFFERED
PARTY MEMBERSHIP ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS. PARTY WOULD DRAW
ITS MEMBERS FROM MASS ORGANIZATIONS--PEASANTS' AND URBAN
DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS, ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU),
POLITBURO CADRES, AND MILITARY. OF OTHER FOUR MARXIST-
LENINIST GROUPS, MALERIDE AND LABOR LEAGUE (WEZ) APPEAR

TO BE COOPERATING WITH PARTY FORMATION, AND THEIR MEMBERS MAY HAVE SOME ROLE IN FUTURE. OPPRESSED REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE (ECHAT) REMAINING PASSIVE, BUT ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (AESM OR ME'I SONE) WING WHICH HAS GONE UNDERGROUND ALLEGEDLY OPPOSING SEDED-LED PARTY AND MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AT LEAST SOME OF ASSASSINATIONS OF ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS.

2. CONCERNING AESM, SOURCE STATED PROMINENT AESM LEADER HAILE FIDA, WHO HAS BEEN DETAINED IN PMAC HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND (GIBBI PALACE) SINCE HIS CAPTURE IN SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING ATTEMPT TO GO UNDERGROUND, IS BEING TORTURED. PURPOSE OF TORTURE IS TO ELICIT NAMES OF PMAC MEMBERS HAILE HAS WORKED WITH IN PAST AND WHO MAY RETAIN LOYALTY TO AESM. SO FAR HAILE IS BELIEVED NOT TO HAVE DIVULGED ANY NAMES. SOURCE THOUGHT HOWEVER THAT AMONG OTHERS, PMAC MEMBER MAJOR DEBELE DINSA, CHAIRMAN OF ADDIS ABABA OVERALL REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE WOULD BE VICTIM OF FUTURE PURGE. MAJOR DEBELE, A FORMER POLICEMAN, HAD BEEN COUNSELING KEBELE DEFENSE SQUADS TO EXERCISE DISCIPLINE AND MODERATION DURING CAMPAIGN TO EXPOSE REACTIONARIES. THIS KIND OF ADVICE BECOMING MORE OF CRIME THESE DAYS.

3. RECENTLY CONCLUDED MEETING OF POLITICAL SCHOOL CADRES PASSED NUMBER OF "DECISIONS" INCLUDING CONDEMNATION OF SLOGAN "FULL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE OPPRESSED MASSES NOW" WHICH ASSOCIATED WITH AESM AND EPRP. MEETING CITED ABSENCE OF WORK-CONFIDENTIAL

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ERS' PARTY AS MAJOR DRAWBACK OF REVOLUTION. IN FURTHER VEILED REFERENCE ABOUT AESM, DECISION PASSED AGAINST RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS WHO HAVE FLED COUNTRY, BUT THEIR WITHDRAWAL WILL NOT PREVENT PARTY'S ESTABLISHMENT. SIGNIFICANTLY, IDEOLOGY SCHOOL NOW CONTROLLED BY SEDED CADRES, WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY IT WAS RUN BY AESM.

4. COMMENT: IF WORKERS' PARTY ACTUALLY ESTABLISHED BEFORE JAN 7, DURING PERIOD WHEN WAR FRONTS AND INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS SEEM TO BE STRAINING ETHIOPIAN RESOURCES, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS. FURTHER DECLINE OF HAILE FIDA MAY BE INDICATIVE OF MENGISTU'S INABILITY TO RESTRAIN FULLY "RADICAL" ELEMENTS WITHIN PMAC WHO HAVE BEEN URGING STRONG MEASURES AGAINST HAILE ALMOST SINCE HIS ARREST. IT ALSO APPEARS ATTACKS ON AESM STEPPING-UP AND CO-EXISTENCE OF MARXIST-LENINIST GROUPS NO LONGER CONSIDERED IMPORTANT TO PMAC DECISION MAKERS. THEREFORE, INTERNECINE KILLINGS LIKELY TO INCREASE, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE PURGE OF SEDED OPPONENTS WITHIN PMAC AND GOVERNMENT. MATHERON

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